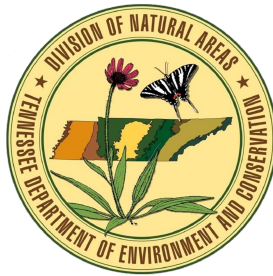




Natural Areas Week Events

Division of Natural Areas



Department of
**Environment &
Conservation**



Wildflower Hike from Lost Creek to Virgin Falls

Date: April 6, 2019

Time: 9:30 a.m. Central

Fee: Free

Location: Lost Creek Falls & Cave Trailhead (35.841042, -85.360948)

Hike Leader: Stuart Carroll, Stephanie Williams, Caitlin Elam

Online Registration: [Click here to register](#)

RSVP Contact: Stephanie Williams, stephanie.ann.williams@tn.gov, 615-238-1966

Event Description:

Join State Parks, Stuart Carroll and the Division of Natural Areas Stephanie Williams & Caitlin Elam to discover spring wildflowers along the Rylander Cascade trail. The connector trail passes small rock houses, boulder fields, sinks, and cascades in route to Virgin Falls. The distance to Virgin Falls is 3.5 miles one way,. ~ 5 hour event. Please be prepared for this adventure with sturdy boots, water, lunch, and clothing for the season.

Wildflower Walk up Richland Creek

Date: April 6, 2019

Time: 10:00 a.m. Eastern

Fee: Free

Location: Laurel-Snow State Natural Area (35.526131, -85.021839)

Hike Leader: Lisa Huff, David Pineros

Online Registration: [Click here to register](#)

RSVP Contact: Lisa Huff, lisa.huff@tn.gov, 865-594-5601

Event Description:

The Laurel-Snow State Natural Area contains the first designated National Recreation Trail in Tennessee. This wonderful trail typically is thick with early spring wildflowers and follows closely beside the thrilling Richland Creek with its pristine waters and house-sized boulders. We will hike from the parking lot up to the bridge that crosses Richland Creek and then return. We won't specifically be going to either Laurel or Snow Falls, but hikers are welcome to go to either waterfall on their own. This hike is easy to moderate and about 4 miles round trip.

Short Springs - hike 'em all

Date: April 6, 2019

Time: 1:00 p.m. Central

Fee: Free

Location: Short Springs State Natural Area (35.4073,-86.1745)

Hike Leader: Murray Gheesling, Middle TN Stewardship Ecologist

Online Registration: [Click here to register](#)

RSVP Contact: Murray Gheesling, murray.gheesling@tn.gov, 423-241-9307

Event Description:

Short Springs SNA clings to the edge of the Eastern Highland Rim of Middle TN. Within its oak-hickory forest are several creeks and waterfalls. A trail system connects upper slopes and creek beds winding through distinctive layers of vegetation. This is a great time to view excellent spring ephemeral wildflowers along the way. This hike will consist of Bobo Creek loop, Laurel Bluff loop, Machine Falls loop and Adams Falls loop. These combined loops are approximately 5 miles long. We will make a couple brief stops for waterfalls and wildflowers but a steady pace is required to complete all loops. There are steep sections but nothing treacherous. Bring plenty of water and food and appropriate footwear.

Deep Swamp Canoe Float**Date:** April 6, 2019**Time:** 1:00 p.m. Central**Fee:** \$14**Location:** Reelfoot Lake State Park**Hike Leader:** David Haggard, West TN Naturalist**Online Registration:** [Click here to register](#)**RSVP Contact:** David Haggard, David.haggard@tn.gov, 731-253-9652**Event Description:**

Join our experienced naturalist for a three hour canoe float through seldom explored areas of Reelfoot Lake. Observe old growth cypress forest, a heron rookery and an eagle nest as we leisurely paddle through the cypress swamp. Exciting sights include large fish swimming, ducks taking flight and the occasional snake making an appearance. A variety of bird life such as songbirds, ducks, herons, owls, or an eagle usually shows up to check out the canoeist. This is one of the most unique adventures offered in West Tennessee.

Wildflowers of Soak Creek State Scenic River**Date:** April 7, 2019**Time:** 10:00 a.m. Eastern**Fee:** Free**Location:** Piney Falls State Natural Area - Soak Creek Access (35.713132, -84.880339)**Hike Leader:** Lisa Huff, East TN Stewardship Ecologist**Online Registration:** [Click here to register](#)**RSVP Contact:** Lisa Huff, lisa.huff@tn.gov, 865-594-5601**Event Description:**

Soak Creek State Scenic River is a site to behold on its own at any time of year, but is especially fun during the spring wildflower season. You will enjoy this easy hike up the level (but somewhat rocky) Soak Creek section of Piney Falls State Natural Area. Eventually, the Cumberland Trail State

Scenic Trail will traverse this route through the natural area. The hike is about two miles round trip. Don't forget good shoes and pack lunch and water.

Short Springs Natural Area Wildflower Hike

Date: April 7, 2019

Time: 10:00 a.m. Central

Fee: Free

Location: Short Springs State Natural Area (35.4073,-86.1745)

Hike Leader: Todd Crabtree, State Botanist

Online Registration: [Click here to register](#)

RSVP Contact: Todd Crabtree, todd.crabtree@tn.gov, 615-532-1378

Event Description:

Short Springs State Natural Area is well known for its spring display of wildflowers. Numerous spring ephemerals are at home on the slopes above BoBo Creek and these will be the focus for the hike. There are also scenic waterfalls in the natural area. The maintained trails have a few steep sections but experienced hikers will not be too challenged. Bring water and snacks and footwear with good ankle support. We'll be back at the trailhead in the middle of the day.

Cheeks Bend Bluff and Howard Bridge Glade Hike

Date: April 7, 2019

Time: 1:00 p.m. Central

Fee: Free

Location: Duck River Complex State Natural Area, Cheeks Bend Parking Area. From I-65 exit to highway 412/99 and head west approximately one mile and turn left on Rock Springs Road and go approximately four miles to Sowell Mill Pike and turn left and go approximately three miles and turn right on Cheeks Bend Road and go about one mile to parking area, N 35.56831 W 86.88488.

Hike Leader: David Lincicome, Natural Heritage Program Manager

Online Registration: [Click here to register](#)

RSVP Contact: David Lincicome, David.lincicome@tn.gov, 615-532-0439

Event Description:

Come enjoy a spring hike at the Duck River Complex State Natural Area. We will hike on two portions of the 2,135-acre natural area complex in Maury County; Cheeks Bend and Howard Bridge Glade. Cheeks Bend (800-acres) includes high quality representative limestone cedar glades, karst features, cedar and hardwood forests, and scenic bluffs overlooking the Duck River. There is a parking area and a two-mile trail at Cheeks Bend. Rare plants found here include blue star, limestone fame-flower, Tennessee milk-vetch, and glade cress. Howard Bridge Glade (321-acres) has no developed access although a road provides access into the river bend. We will carpool 5.5 miles over to the site. We will hike an additional 1.5 miles to visit cedar and hardwood forests,

karst features, and a 6 acre limestone cedar glade. The Duck River bladderpod occurs here. The importance of the Duck River Complex is in part due to its association with the Duck River State Scenic River. There are thirteen miles of the 30-mile state scenic river corridor that flows through this public land. The Duck River is noted for rich faunal diversity particularly the several federal endangered mussel species that occur there. The natural area was designated to assure that federal and state listed species were protected when TVA transferred the Columbia Dam lands to the State for public use. You should bring water, a snack, and sturdy shoes. The trip will be canceled if there is heavy rain or severe weather predicted.

Big Cypress Tree State Park Spring Walk

Date: April 7, 2019

Time: 1:30 p.m. Central

Fee: Free

Location: Big Cypress Tree State Park

Hike Leader: Allan J. Trently, West TN Stewardship Ecologist and Bill McCall, Park Manager

Online Registration: [Click here to register](#)

RSVP Contact: Allan J. Trently, Allan.Trently@tn.gov, 731-512-1369

Event Description:

We will walk the trail down to the end of the boardwalk. If conditions are good, we may continue to the Obion River. This walk is considered easy and kid-friendly.

Collins Gulf Wildflower Foray

Date: April 8, 2019

Time: 9:00 a.m. Central

Fee: Free

Location: Savage Gulf State Natural Area, Collins Gulf Trailhead, 55th Ave, Gruetli Laager TN

Hike Leader: Murray Gheesling, Middle TN Stewardship Ecologist

Online Registration: [Click here to register](#)

RSVP Contact: Murray Gheesling, murray.gheesling@tn.gov, 423-241-9307

Event Description:

Collins Gulf, within Savage Gulf SNA, is a great place to search for wildflowers, especially this time of year. Almost each day offers something new to see. This hike explores the trail section from Collins Rim, through Boulders Crossing, to Collins bridge. It is a rough, rocky, and, in places, steep three mile hike but rich with wildflowers. Let's get out and re-discover the wildflowers we almost forgot about over the last 10 months! Meet at Collins West trailhead. Bring plenty of water and food and appropriate footwear.

Walls of Jericho hike

Date: April 9, 2019

Time: 9:00 a.m. Central

Fee: \$10

Location: Walls of Jericho, Alabama trailhead, North of Hytop AL (TN 16)

Hike Leader: Murray Gheesling, Middle TN Stewardship Ecologist

Online Registration: [Click here to register](#)

RSVP Contact: Murray Gheesling, murray.gheesling@tn.gov, 423-241-9307

Event Description:

On the Southern Cumberland Plateau, a huge carved bowl of limestone rests along the bluffs in the Turkey Creek gorge. The creek passes from Tennessee to Alabama at this isolated spot marked with bowling-ball size voids in the rock that seep waters above. The rewards of crossing the limestone amphitheater threshold at the end of the trail make the creek crossings and mileage well worth it for the experienced hiker. We will explore some of the flora (this is a great time for wildflowers), geology, and history along the way on this 7(ish)-mile round trip hike. The trail is steep in places and always slick along rocks and roots that comprise much of this journey. This hike is demanding and strenuous. Please bring sturdy boots, plenty of water and food for a long day hike, and be prepared for a long climb back out to the trailhead. Meet at the Alabama trailhead, North of Hytop AL on AL 79 (TN 16) (34.9776, -86.0788) at 9:00 a.m. Central.

Meeman Meander

Date: April 9, 2019

Time: 9:30 a.m. Central

Fee: Free

Location: Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park

Hike Leader: Allan J. Trently, West TN Stewardship Ecologist

Online Registration: [Click here to register](#)

RSVP Contact: Allan J. Trently, Allan.Trently@tn.gov, 731-512-1369

Event Description:

The Meeman Meander will take place on the Woodland Trail. We will be hiking the entire trail that day plus to and from the Visitor's Center for a total of 4 miles. The trail is a moderate hike and is a great way to get your workout in for the day! You will need to bring water, bugspray, and a pair of comfortable sneakers/hiking shoes!

Washmorgan Hollow Gorge Scramble

Date: April 9, 2019

Time: 12:00 p.m. Central

Fee: Free

Location: Washmorgan Hollow State Natural Area

Hike Leader: Jason E. Miller, Natural Areas Program Administrator

Online Registration: [Click here to register](#)

RSVP Contact: Jason Miller, Jason.e.miller@tn.gov, 931-432-5312

Event Description:

Visit one of the oft overlooked and unassuming outposts of the State Natural Areas system, Washmorgan Hollow. Spring is the perfect time to get to know the site with Natural Areas Program Administrator Jason E. Miller. We will meet at the small parking area for Washmorgan Hollow on Spring Creek Road and hike approximately 1/2 mile up the intermittent stream viewing Spring ephemeral wildflowers, unique geological formations and other natural wonders along the way. Please wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. The event should last roughly 2 hours.

Taylor Hollow Spring Wildflower Walk

Date: April 10, 2019

Time: 9:00 a.m. Central

Fee: Free

Location: Taylor Hollow State Natural Area. Park at 671 Phillips Hollow Road, Westmoreland (36.5164, -86.2373)

Hike Leader: Roger McCoy, Director, Division of Natural Areas

Online Registration: [Click here to register](#)

RSVP Contact: Roger McCoy, roger.mccoy@tn.gov, 615-532-0437

Event Description:

There are multiple opportunities during this State Natural Areas Spring Celebration for a guided tour of Taylor Hollow. As the first property acquired by the Tennessee Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, Taylor Hollow State Natural Area protects a high-quality cove where visitors can experience how Middle Tennessee's pre-settlement spring flora may have appeared. Attendees of this excursion will review the names of different wildflowers, observe the state-endangered blue-eyed Mary, learn how to distinguish between different species, and discuss the environmental variables that influence forest species composition. The hike consists of about two miles at a slow to moderate pace and those accustomed to hiking should have little difficulty. The hike will last from two to three hours with stops to enjoy, photograph, and learn about wildflowers. The route crosses one shallow stream, so wear suitable footwear. Dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks. Trained in botany, trip leader Roger McCoy has conducted rare species inventories and ecological community sampling throughout Tennessee.

Stones River Cedar Glades and Barrens, walk and talk

Date: April 10, 2019

Time: 9:00 a.m. Central

Fee: Free

Location: Stones River National Battlefield

Hike Leader: Murray Gheesling, Middle TN Stewardship Ecologist

Online Registration: [Click here to register](#)

RSVP Contact: Murray Gheesling, murray.gheesling@tn.gov, 423-241-9307

Event Description:

Tennessee natural heritage, rare plants, national history, and exceptional resource management all meet here at Stones River National Battlefield in Murfreesboro. The National Park Service manages this area containing a 185-acre Tennessee State Natural Area of glades and barrens. We meet at the visitor center and take trails through the interior and natural area. While there is an abundance of history here, our walk and talk will focus on plants and resource management of glade and barrens sites within Tennessee.

Hike to the Window Cliffs

Date: April 10, 2019

Time: 10:00 a.m. Central

Fee: \$15

Location: Window Cliffs State Natural Area

Hike Leader: Jason Miller, Natural Areas Program Administrator

Online Registration: [Click here to register](#)

RSVP Contact: Lisa Lynch, Lisa.Lynch@tn.gov, 931-432-5312

Event Description:

Enjoy the Natural Areas Spring Celebration at one of the newest and most stunning natural areas, Window Cliffs. The trail to this distinct geologic formation is 5.5 miles roundtrip, and should take two and half to 3 hours to complete the hike. A round trip requires 18 creek crossings which can be challenging or impassable during high water as there are no bridges but only cables and rock crossings. You will get wet when hiking this trail. Hiking boots are recommended for hiking the trail, having an extra pair of water shoes or tennis shoes is suggested for stream crossings. The trail is considered difficult to strenuous. Due to the numerous stream crossings with sometimes swift water and the potentially dangerous cliff tops, small children are not advised to join this hike. Pets are not permitted at Window Cliffs State Natural Area.

Taylor Hollow Spring Wildflower Walk

Date: April 10, 2019

Time: 12:30 p.m. Central

Fee: Free

Location: Taylor Hollow State Natural Area. Park at 671 Phillips Hollow Road, Westmoreland (36.5164, -86.2373)

Hike Leader: Roger McCoy, Director, Division of Natural Areas

Online Registration: [Click here to register](#)

RSVP Contact: Roger McCoy, roger.mccoy@tn.gov, 615-532-0437

Event Description:

There are multiple opportunities during this State Natural Areas Spring Celebration for a guided tour of Taylor Hollow. As the first property acquired by the Tennessee Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, Taylor Hollow State Natural Area protects a high-quality cove where visitors can experience how Middle Tennessee's pre-settlement spring flora may have appeared. Attendees of this excursion will review the names of different wildflowers, observe the state-endangered blue-eyed Mary, learn how to distinguish between different species, and discuss the environmental variables that influence forest species composition. The hike consists of about two miles at a slow to moderate pace and those accustomed to hiking should have little difficulty. The hike will last from two to three hours with stops to enjoy, photograph, and learn about wildflowers. The route crosses one shallow stream, so wear suitable footwear. Dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks. Trained in botany, trip leader Roger McCoy has conducted rare species inventories and ecological community sampling throughout Tennessee.

Savage Gulf Trail Repair

Date: April 11, 2019

Time: 9:00 a.m. Central

Fee: Free

Location: Savage Gulf Ranger Station 3157 SR 399 Palmer TN 37365

Hike Leader: Murray Gheesling, Middle TN Stewardship Ecologist

Online Registration: [Click here to register](#)

RSVP Contact: Murray Gheesling, murray.gheesling@tn.gov, 423-241-9307

Event Description:

Join South Cumberland Ranger Mark Greenwood and the Division of Natural Area's Murray Gheesling for a day of trail repair and maintenance on the Savage Day Loop Trail at Savage Gulf State Natural Area. This area was damaged significantly by a tornado in November. The trail is open but more work needs to be done to bring it up to Savage Gulf SNA's high standards. What a great way to celebrate Natural Areas Week! Bring work clothes, sturdy footwear, gloves, plenty of water, and food for the trail. Be ready for a day of hiking and toil! Work implements will be provided. Weather permitting.

Night Walk into the Swamp

Date: April 11, 2019

Time: 7:30 p.m. Central

Fee: Free

Location: Ghost River SNA, Mineral Slough parking lot (35.02677, -89.272249) Beasley Drive, LaGrange, Tennessee

Hike Leader: Allan J. Trently, West TN Stewardship Ecologist

Online Registration: [Click here to register](#)

RSVP Contact: Allan J. Trently, Allan.Trently@tn.gov, 731-512-1369

Event Description:

The bottomland forests and swamps are alive at night. Be prepared to see the flashing of Snappy Single Sync fireflies (and other species) and hear the strange callings of day-active bird dusk songs and the strange squeals and hoots of night birds. And of course, we will hear the mating calls of a number of frog and toad species. If we are lucky we may see nocturnal mammals such as mink or beaver beginning their “day”. We will walk along a short trail from the parking lot. The entire walk is less than a mile. Though we don’t want to use flashlights, bring one if you would like. Mosquitos are typically not “bad” but be prepared for them (bring bug spray and it is recommended to have a long-sleeve shirt).

Clifton Bend Spring Butterfly Count

Date: April 13, 2019

Time: 9:30 a.m. Central

Fee: Free

Location: Carroll Cabin Barrens State Natural Area

Hike Leader: Allan J. Trently, West TN Stewardship Ecologist

Online Registration: [Click here to register](#)

RSVP Contact: Allan J. Trently, Allan.Trently@tn.gov, 731-512-1369

Event Description:

Walk through the unique and wildflower-dominated west Tennessee Valley barrens of the Western Valley physiographic region of Decatur County. Learn about the barrens and the plants and butterflies that use the barrens while helping count the many colorful butterfly species we will see flying. It is OK if you don’t know your butterflies. You’ll learn a few species that you can help count. The data that you help collect will go to the North American Butterfly Association. Be prepared for off-trail walking along gentle slopes. We meet at 9:30 AM and continue till about noon. The barrens are treeless areas so sunscreen is highly recommended. Also wear tick repellent since ticks are common along the forested edges. All those attending this event will be participating in citizen science. Citizen science is a way to involve 1000s of non-scientists in collecting much needed data that will go towards understanding the biology and conservation needs of species. Butterfly counts take place throughout Tennessee (as well as North and South America). My hope is that you will be motivated to learn the butterflies so that you can be a future member of the citizen science community and hopefully I’ll see you on other butterfly counts.

Sequatchie Cave SNA Cleanup

Date: April 13, 2019

Time: 10:00 a.m. Central

Fee: Free

Location: Sequatchie Cave State Natural Area

Hike Leader: David Withers, Zoologist- TN Natural Heritage program

Online Registration: [Click here to register](#)

RSVP Contact: David Withers, david.withers@tn.gov, 615-532-0441

Event Description:

Sequatchie Cave State Natural Area, Marion County, is the type locality of four rare species, including the federally endangered royal snail (*Marstonia ogmorhappe*) and equally rare Sequatchie caddisfly (*Glyphopsyche sequatchie*), an unusual winter day-flying species. Recent kudzu management onsite has revealed an abundance of previously unseen trash and debris, presenting a unique opportunity to renovate a portion of this landscape during the early spring ([see video](#)). This service event will focus on the area grazed in 2018 and include removal, recycling and disposal of all the trash we can manage! We'll also take time to look for the elusive caddisfly and check in on the elegant royal snail.

Meet onsite at 10 AM Central, and please bring sturdy boots and gloves. We'll have water and snacks available, and should conclude by 1 PM.

Colditz Cove Hike to Northrup Falls

Date: April 13, 2019

Time: 10:00 a.m. Central

Fee: Free

Location: Colditz Cove Natural Area

Hike Leader: David Pineros, biologist, Heritage program

Online Registration: [Click here to register](#)

RSVP Contact: David Pineros, david.pineros@tn.gov, 615 761 4250

Event Description:

Colditz Cove is a hidden gem in the Cumberland Plateau for biodiversity and scenic views. Join biologist David Pineros to learn about the natural history of the area. We will hike to the Northrup Falls, one of the most scenic waterfalls in Tennessee. We will pass through 200 year old hemlock trees and whit pines, as we make stops to observe the fauna and flora of the area. Colditz Cove is home to some rare animal species including the Black Mountain dusky salamander (*Desmognathus welteri*), the woodland jumping mouse (*Napaeozapus insignis*), the smoky shrew (*Sorex fumeus*), the pygmy shrew (*Sorex hoyi*), and the southeastern shrew (*Sorex longirostris*). This is a 1.5 mile

easy to moderate trail. There are steep sections but nothing treacherous. Bring plenty of water and food and appropriate footwear. We will meet at the trailhead at 10:00 a.m. Central Time.

Taylor Hollow Spring Wildflower Walk

Date: April 13, 2019

Time: 12:30 p.m. Central

Fee: Free

Location: Taylor Hollow State Natural Area. Park at 671 Phillips Hollow Road, Westmoreland (36.5164, -86.2373)

Hike Leader: Roger McCoy, Director, Division of Natural Areas

Online Registration: [Click here to register](#)

RSVP Contact: Roger McCoy, roger.mccoy@tn.gov, 615-532-0437

Event Description:

There are multiple opportunities during this State Natural Areas Spring Celebration for a guided tour of Taylor Hollow. As the first property acquired by the Tennessee Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, Taylor Hollow State Natural Area protects a high-quality cove where visitors can experience how Middle Tennessee's pre-settlement spring flora may have appeared. Attendees of this excursion will review the names of different wildflowers, observe the state-endangered blue-eyed Mary, learn how to distinguish between different species, and discuss the environmental variables that influence forest species composition. The hike consists of about two miles at a slow to moderate pace and those accustomed to hiking should have little difficulty. The hike will last from two to three hours with stops to enjoy, photograph, and learn about wildflowers. The route crosses one shallow stream, so wear suitable footwear. Dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks. Trained in botany, trip leader Roger McCoy has conducted rare species inventories and ecological community sampling throughout Tennessee.

Couchville

Date: April 13, 2019

Time: 1:00 p.m. Central

Fee: Free

Location: Couchville Cedar Glade State Natural Area

Hike Leader: Brian Bowen, Natural Areas Manager Emeritus

Online Registration: [Click here to register](#)

RSVP Contact: Jason E. Miller, Jason.e.miller@tn.gov, 615-532-0436

Event Description:

Discover rare endemics of Couchville Cedar Glade with ecologist Brian Bowen. This hike will focus on rare glade plants of Tennessee's central basin. Visitors should plan to hike approximately 3

miles, and should be prepared for early Spring weather and uneven terrain throughout this moderate hike. Bring plenty of snacks and water.

Early Spring Wildflower Hike

Date: April 13, 2019

Time: 1:00 p.m. Eastern

Fee: Free

Location: Rugby State Natural Area (36.359003, -084.701486)

Hike Leader: Lisa Huff, East TN Stewardship Ecologist

Online Registration: [Click here to register](#)

RSVP Contact: Lisa Huff, lisa.huff@tn.gov, 865-594-5601

Event Description:

Join the Division of Natural Areas during our annual natural areas celebration for a hike at Rugby State Natural Area. Early spring wildflowers should be peeking out along the hiking trails at the natural area. The hike will start at the Visitor Centre, head down Cumberland Avenue to the White Oak Trail junction, will cross the bottom of Horseshoe Bend Road to Cox Branch Trail, go up Allerton Ridge to the Masegale Loop Trail and then back to the Visitor Centre. The hike is about 4.6 miles if we include the Kellogg's Loop Trail or about 3.75 miles without, and we can query our group during the hike to determine how to end the outing.

Deep Swamp Canoe Float

Date: April 13, 2019

Time: 1:00 p.m. Central

Fee: \$14

Location: Reelfoot Lake State Park

Hike Leader: David Haggard, West TN Naturalist

Online Registration: [Click here to register](#)

RSVP Contact: David Haggard, David.haggard@tn.gov, 731-253-9652

Event Description:

Join our experienced naturalist for a three hour canoe float through seldom explored areas of Reelfoot Lake. Observe old growth cypress forest, a heron rookery and an eagle nest as we leisurely paddle through the cypress swamp. Exciting sights include large fish swimming, ducks taking flight and the occasional snake making an appearance. A variety of bird life such as songbirds, ducks, herons, owls, or an eagle usually shows up to check out the canoeist. This is one of the most unique adventures offered in West Tennessee

Deep Swamp Canoe Float

Date: April 14, 2019

Time: 9:00 a.m. Central

Fee: \$14

Location: Reelfoot Lake State Park

Hike Leader: David Haggard, West TN Naturalist

Online Registration: [Click here to register](#)

RSVP Contact: David Haggard, David.haggard@tn.gov, 731-253-9652

Event Description:

Join our experienced naturalist for a three hour canoe float through seldom explored areas of Reelfoot Lake. Observe old growth cypress forest, a heron rookery and an eagle nest as we leisurely paddle through the cypress swamp. Exciting sights include large fish swimming, ducks taking flight and the occasional snake making an appearance. A variety of bird life such as songbirds, ducks, herons, owls, or an eagle usually shows up to check out the canoeist. This is one of the most unique adventures offered in West Tennessee

Taylor Hollow Spring Wildflower Walk

Date: April 14, 2019

Time: 2:00 p.m. Central

Fee: Free

Location: Taylor Hollow State Natural Area. Park at 671 Phillips Hollow Road, Westmoreland (36.5164, -86.2373)

Hike Leader: Roger McCoy, Director, Division of Natural Areas

Online Registration: [Click here to register](#)

RSVP Contact: Roger McCoy, roger.mccoy@tn.gov, 615-532-0437

Event Description:

As a finale to our State Natural Areas Spring Celebration, we've added another opportunity for a guided tour of Taylor Hollow. As the first property acquired by the Tennessee Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, Taylor Hollow State Natural Area protects a high-quality cove where visitors can experience how Middle Tennessee's pre-settlement spring flora may have appeared. Attendees of this excursion will review the names of different wildflowers, observe the state-endangered blue-eyed Mary, learn how to distinguish between different species, and discuss the environmental variables that influence forest species composition. The hike consists of about two miles at a slow to moderate pace and those accustomed to hiking should have little difficulty. The hike will last from two to three hours with stops to enjoy, photograph, and learn about wildflowers. The route crosses one shallow stream, so wear suitable footwear. Dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks. Trained in botany, trip leader Roger McCoy has conducted rare species inventories and ecological community sampling throughout Tennessee.

